

# Health and Medical Sub Panel to the Secure Commonwealth Panel

## Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** November 30, 2006

**TIME:** 9 a.m. – 12 noon

| PARTICIPATION  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| AGENCY   | REPRESENTATIVE           |
|  | H. Donald Knox, M.D.     |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Kim Allan                |
| Virginia Department of Health – Medical Examiner's Office    | Rochelle Altholz         |
| Virginia Department of Health                                | Alison Ansher            |
| VCU Medical Center   | Dean Broga               |
| Medicorp   | Philip Brown             |
| Virginia Department of Health – OEMS                         | Frank Cheatham           |
| Virginia Department of Health                                | Robert Delaney           |
| VHHA   | Mark Dietz               |
| County of Henrico  | George Drumwright        |
| VHHA   | Steve Ennis              |
| Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System           | William Ginnow           |
| VCU Medical Center   | Michael Gonzalez         |
| VPCA   | Neal Graham              |
| Troutman Sanders LLP   | Steven Gravely           |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Lisa Hague               |
| Inova Health System  | Dan Hanfling             |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Dee Hayes                |
| Virginia Department of Health – Lord Fairfax Health District | Dr. Diane Helentjaris    |
| Sentara Obici Hospital                                       | Jessica Horton           |
| Virginia Department of Health                                | Alexa Hussar             |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz       |
| Office of the Attorney General                               | Robin Kurz               |
| Virginia Department of Health – Henrico Health District      | Dr. Mark Levine          |
| Virginia Department of Health                                | Becky Lyttle             |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Bob Mauskapf             |
| EVMS/Sentara/VIDS  | Martha Mooney            |
| Virginia Department of Health – OEMS                         | Jim Nogle                |
| CVC, LLC   | Fred Norman              |
| Virginia General Assembly                                    | Del. John O'Bannon, M.D. |
| Virginia Department of Health – OEMS                         | Karen Owens              |
| Virginia Department of Health                                | Diane Powers             |
| VAVRS  | Ed Rhodes                |
| VCU  | Rutherford (Ruddy) Rose  |
| American Red Cross   | Kathy Siddall            |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Suzi Silverstein         |
| VHHA   | Susan Ward               |
| Virginia Department of Health – EP&R                         | Gabrielle Williams       |

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| Virginia Department of Health   | Diane Woolard, Ph.D. |
|   | Ryan Matthews        |
| Virginia Department of Health   | Joe Hilbert          |
| Virginia Department of Health   | Brooke Rossheim      |
| Virginia General Assembly   | Del. Algie Howell    |
| Virginia Dept. of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse | Bill Armistead       |
| VAEMS Council   | Melinda Duncan       |
| VPCGA   | Barry Hawkins        |
| MSV   | Mike Jurgensen       |
| HHR Secretary's Office  | Gail Jaspen          |
| Virginia Department of Emergency Management                             | George Roarty        |
| VCU Medical Center  | Sam Bartle           |
| Office of Commonwealth Preparedness                                     | Curtis Brown         |
| Virginia Department of Labor and Commerce                               | Ron Graham           |

### Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to address a number of issues related to public health, health and medical response to emergencies, including a possible pandemic of influenza. The topics to be covered were identified during a planning meeting on September 29, 2006, Chaired by Del O'Bannon. Other members of the planning group included: Dr. Norris Royston of the Secure Commonwealth Panel, Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz and Kim Allan of the Virginia Department of Health, Michael Jurgenson of the Medical Society of Virginia, Gail Jaspen representing Secretary Marilyn Tavenner, Dr. Mark Dietz of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, Constance McGeorge of the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and Steven Gravely, legal consultant from Troutman Sanders law firm. At the end of the meeting, the goal was to identify issues to be addressed by the Subpanel over the following 12 months.

### Discussion

The meeting agenda is attached. It included the following discussions:

- Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz and Kim Allan of the Virginia Department of Health presented the following:
  - Grant initiatives for the 2006-2007 grants year for the CDC public health preparedness and HRSA healthcare preparedness grants. The CDC grant funding for overall emergency preparedness was decreased significantly, requiring the elimination of some funded positions. The HRSA grant now focuses on regional planning and coordination among all healthcare and public health providers.
  - Update on pandemic influenza preparedness activities, with a focus now on local planning efforts. Weekly reports are posted on the VDH pandemic influenza website ([www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu)). The Office of Commonwealth Preparedness will take the lead for all non-

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- health aspects of pandemic flu planning in state government, with a report on health and non-health aspects of pandemic flu planning due to DHHS in early 2007.
- Kim Allan discussed CDC public health preparedness performance measures that are still evolving
  - Steven Gravely of Troutman Sanders presented the efforts of a group convened by the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) to address planning for Altered Standards of Care and Liability Issues during emergencies requiring a surge in demand on the healthcare system.
    - Discussed the document, Ethical Issues and Altered Standards of Care in a Pandemic, which is discussion of a process for addressing situations of resource shortages during a healthcare emergency. This document will be made available for comment by a range of groups statewide, including the Health and medical Subpanel.
    - Questions from the group included discussions of 1) role of Title 44 in healthcare emergency, 2) liability issues and professional regulation, 3) how to engage the public in discussions of the best use of limited resources, 4) need to work with health insurers on preparedness issues, including allowing people to obtain additional supplies of medications, 5) public education in general in planning for healthcare emergency
  - Del O'Bannon led the discussion about key issues to be addressed by the Health and Medical Subpanel in the next 12 months. Issues raised included the following:
    - Need to engage private sector more in healthcare and public health preparedness planning, including need to engage healthcare insurers – address billing issues, medications, continuity of operations – and the business community
    - Engage private physicians, and other healthcare providers, in emergency planning
    - Expand public education efforts, including outreach to faith based organizations, schools, the media, other community organizations
    - Address Special Needs Populations, including outreach to limited English proficiency populations, and meeting needs of special medical needs populations in emergencies
    - Assure continued funding for healthcare and public health emergency preparedness – consider increased state funding as federal funding continues to decrease

### Next Steps

The plan is for the Health and Medical Subpanel to meet quarterly in 2007. Immediately after the 2007 session of the General Assembly has ended, the planning group which will include all members of the Health and Medical Subpanel of the Secure Commonwealth Panel will meet to plan presentations for the next Health and Medical Subpanel meeting. Steven Gravely's presentation and the Alternate Standards of Care document will be posted on the VDH web site, with any feedback addressed to Mr. Gravely and the VHHA Alternate Standards of Care Study Committee.